



DEFENSE PRISONER OF WAR/MISSING IN ACTION OFFICE
2400 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2400

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A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF DOCUMENTS PROVIDED
PRESIDENTIAL DELEGATION, MAY 1995

INTRODUCTION

This particular turnover of documents represents the third series of unilateral reports that we have received. While it is still being evaluated, it is the most detailed and informative to date. The documents received from the Vietnamese during the Guber-Lord-Wold Presidential Delegation's visit to Hanoi in May 1995 fall into three groupings: (1) documents addressing Vietnam's unilateral investigations of the 84 Special Remains Cases; (2) documents detailing unilateral investigations undertaken by the Ministry of Interior's Group for Seeking Special Information on Remains and Missing in Action; (3) and documents detailing investigations undertaken by the Ministry of Defense's unilateral MIA Specialists Team. Altogether there are 116 documents totaling some 187 pages. Some of the documents received were specifically requested by DPMO during previous visits made by Presidential Delegations, DASD James Wold, Senator John Kerry, and the National League of Families.

Although the information contained in the most recently received documents will not result in the immediate resolution of any cases, in a few cases, the documents may provide information that can result in new leads. The most useful information may be found in the work accomplished by the Ministry of Interior in locating various wartime and recent provincial records. The reports on the Special Remains Cases do address earlier U.S. Government requests to document unilateral SRV investigative efforts that took place as far back as the late 1970s. They do not, however, provide the necessary information which would enable the U.S. to account for the individuals through the SRV's unilateral recovery of remains or a credible explanation why they cannot be recovered. We anticipate that the ongoing DoD comprehensive review of cases will help clarify the Special Remains cases.

DOCUMENTS ADDRESSING VIETNAM'S UNILATERAL INVESTIGATIONS
OF SPECIAL REMAINS CASES

There are 79 Special Remains reports, totaling 118 pages. A majority of the reports chronicle joint and more importantly unilateral investigations of a case. Some of the reports detail the SRV's unilateral efforts on a case, but none provide specific information leading directly to case resolution. For the first time, however, the reports encourage further joint activity on some of the cases. In seven cases, significant new leads are reported. In one case, the Vietnamese identify a new site for excavation, in another, they refined a different burial location, additional searches for more witnesses and archival



material are also recommended. In seven cases deemed to be unrecoverable by the JTF, the Vietnamese propose further investigation.

DOCUMENTS DERIVED FROM UNILATERAL MINISTRY OF INTERIOR INVESTIGATIONS

From 4-12 May 1995, the Ministry of Interior's Group for Seeking Special Information on Remains and Missing in Action visited six provinces in northern Vietnam in a unilateral documents search. The provinces were Vinh Phu, Tuyen Quang, Yen Bai, Hoa Binh, Ninh Binh, and Thanh Hoa Provinces. The group collected and turned over to the U.S. seven new summary and name list documents (nine pages). U.S. analysts are aware of two other similar documents, one from Hoa Binh and the other from Vinh Phu, which were turned over to us on an earlier occasion. Taken together, the documents received in May 1995 provide seven viable leads and six detailed sketches which provide further information on unaccounted for cases.

DOCUMENTS DERIVED FROM UNILATERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE INVESTIGATIONS

The 30 documents, totaling 60 pages, provided by the Ministry of Defense's MIA Specialists Team date from the 1988 time frame that preceded the initiation of joint investigations. With one exception, these documents appear to be the basis for later joint investigative leads. The exception involves a recent unilateral investigation which eliminated a possible crashsite that had not been jointly investigated.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED THAT WERE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED

Three documents originating from Vinh Phu Province and two from Thanh Hoa Province were received in response to our specific and oft repeated request for provincial lists of U.S. casualties, U.S. graves, and registers of shootdowns from ten of the provinces in northern Vietnam. This list of documents was carried to Vietnam by two presidential delegations, Senator John Kerry, and DASD Wold.